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THE PALACE, MYSORE.
2nd June 1931.

MY DEAR LORD WILLINGDON,

Sir Mirza Ismail has told me so much of the unchanging friendliness to the State of Mysore which Your Excellency displayed to him in recent conversations at Simla, that I am emboldened, even at this early stage of your tenure of your high office, to approach you with a request.

I refer, of course, to the question of the Mysore subsidy, a question which has exercised my mind for many years past, so much so that I have departed from my usual practice in writing personal letters to three of Your Excellency's distinguished predecessors on the subject.

I will not repeat what I said to them about the stigma of inferiority that the payment of a tribute (by whatever name it may be called) places on the State that pays it. Your Excellency knows how much sentiment counts with us in such affairs, and will, I am sure, enter into our feelings in that regard.

There is another very urgent reason now added to that, namely, the loss of nearly one-sixth of our revenue, with no present sign of recovery in the near future.

I am not unaware that the Government of India are also in financial difficulties, but while the remedies that are open to them are not open to us, the application by them of those remedies actually means a further reduction of the purchasing power of our people.

At the same time, it is not as if the subsidies as such could be regarded as a continuing source of revenue. They are bound to disappear in another year or two, so that the loss to the Government of India resulting from an earlier remission would be only that of one or two years' payment.

In short, there never was a case in which giving quickly meant so clearly giving many times over. We in Mysore already associate the name of Willingdon with many acts of kindness. I ask Your Excellency to consider whether it is not possible to let it stand to us for all time for something greater still, namely, that of the Viceroy who commenced his term of office by wiping away once and for all the humiliation that has been placed upon us, and thus enabled us to take our place as equal partners in the federation of the future.

I am,
Your Excellency's sincere friend,
KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE
THE EARL OF WILLINGDON AND VISCOUNT RATENDONE,
G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G., G.C.I.E., G.B.E.,
Viceregal Lodge, Simla.